

SUPERBOWL

NEW ENGLAND 28, SEATTLE 24

DEFLATED

PATRIOTS' STUNNING GOAL-LINE PICK DENIES SEAHAWKS A HISTORY-MAKING, SUPER REPEAT



LAUREN FROHNE / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Stricken expressions and reddened eyes mark the faces of Seahawks fans after the last-minute loss to the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLIX at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale. An interception by the Patriots in the end zone halted the Seahawks' touchdown attempt and gave the Patriots the victory.

Victory vanishes in 1 yard, leaving pain to stay

Larry Stone
Seattle Times columnist

GLENDAL, Ariz. — The Seahawks had history in their grasp, a dynasty in sight, sitting just a yard away. An agonizing, elusive, maddening and ultimately haunted yard.



They had the right man leading them down the field in Russell Wilson, and the game's most bruising runner waiting to be unleashed. We knew how this was going to end, because we've seen it so many times, the Seahawks seizing the moment and pulling the glory onto their side.

They live for these moments, but at this crucial time, on this exalted stage, it all went awry. What resulted was a play as shock-

ing as anything in sports maybe since the ball went through Bill Buckner's legs, and a loss that will torment the Seahawks for perpetuity.

In the flash of Wilson's arm moving forward and the lightning quick move of New England cornerback Malcolm Butler jumping in front of intended receiver Ricardo Lockette, the Super Bowl trophy was yanked away from the Seahawks.

In the span of 30 seconds or less, what would have been another stirring comeback win, marked by a heroic catch from Jermaine Kearse and another steely-eyed drive engineered by Wilson, instead turned into a meltdown of staggering proportions.

Doug Baldwin would call it "an unfortunate series of events," but history will judge it much more harshly. The question of why the Seahawks decided to pass when Marshawn Lynch — the game's best at fighting for the end zone — was no doubt drooling for the ball, See > **STONE, A11**



KATHY WILLENS / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New England Patriots strong safety Malcolm Butler, left, intercepts Russell Wilson's goal-line pass intended for Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Ricardo Lockette.

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Decision most regrettable in Seattle sports history
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Quarterback blues
"I put the blame on me," Russell Wilson says
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Surprising star
Chris Matthews' best game was bittersweet
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Lynch's future
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